

# CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

*Supplement to*

## THE WORLD TODAY

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ALBANIA. *Jan. 11.*—The Constituent Assembly declared Albania a republic.

ARGENTINA. *Jan. 12.*—A general lock-out for 3 days was announced by the committee for the defence of industry, commerce, and agriculture, in protest against the Government's orders to employers to comply with a recent decree increasing wages and salaries and ordering the payment of bonuses.

*Jan. 14.*—The strike (lock-out) by capitalists—called by *La Epoca* (a pro-Peron paper) “the rebellion of gold”—began. The Secretariat of Industry and Commerce announced that it would take steps to ensure a supply of food, and if necessary would commandeer stocks.

*Jan. 15.*—The chief of the Federal Police told the press that 13,000 out of 36,000 business houses in Buenos Ayres were open, and those closed would reopen gradually.

The Labour Party proclaimed Col. Peron and Col. Mercante as candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency.

*Jan. 17.*—The Conservative Party decided not to put forward candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, but to contest the General Election as a separate party. (This avoided a three-cornered contest, as the Conservative votes were expected to go to Radical candidates opposed to Col. Peron.)

AUSTRALIA. *Jan. 7.*—The Minister for External Affairs arrived back from visits to Britain and America. He said that the good results achieved by the Far Eastern Commission were now threatened by the Moscow decisions to give the “Big Four” the individual right to veto the decisions of the Commission of 11 nations. The veto proposal was quite out of keeping with the spirit of the deliberations of the Far Eastern Commission.

*Jan. 11.*—The formation was announced of a joint chiefs of staff

committee representing Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and India, with H.Q. in Melbourne.

*Jan. 18.*—The Prime Minister announced that the Government were to negotiate a trusteeship agreement for submission to the U.N. Assembly for bringing the mandated territory of New Guinea under international trusteeship, and also Nauru subject to the concurrence of the U.K. and New Zealand (the joint mandatories with Australia).

**AUSTRIA.** *Jan. 7.*—The recognition of the Government by Britain, France, America, and the U.S.S.R. was formally announced. All four made a similarly worded statement, saying that Austria was recognized as a State with the same frontiers as 1937 pending a final delimitation, Dr. Renner was recognized as the duly elected head of the State, and the Government formed as a result of the Elections of Nov. 25, 1945 was recognized as the *de jure* Government.

**BELGIUM.** *Jan. 20.*—The Premier announced that the Government had rejected a proposal by the King that the question of his return should be submitted to a referendum after the Elections. He said he had replied, the previous day, that in September the King had undertaken to submit to the nation's verdict "whatever it might be and by whatever legal means it might be expressed". Parliament was the interpreter of the nation's will, and the Chamber had already decided that a referendum would be incompatible with the Constitution. He also said that the principle of monarchy was not in question, and the monarchy had continued to exercise its functions since the liberation. "The Government wishes to declare solemnly that neither the principle of monarchy nor that of the dynasty are disputed, and that they are not the subject of electoral strife." The proposed referendum had been rejected by all but one of the political parties.

**BERMUDA.** *Jan. 15.*—A conference on civil aviation opened between official representatives of Britain and the U.S.A.

**BULGARIA.** *Jan. 7.*—It was understood that the leaders of the Agrarian and Social-Democratic Parties had rejected the proposals made by the Government for broadening its basis, and had stipulated that the portfolios of the Interior and of Justice should not continue to be held by Communists and that new free elections should be held. (They boycotted the elections in November because they did not regard them as free.)

*Jan. 8.*—Soviet press criticisms of attitude of Bulgarian parties. (see U.S.S.R.) A Government *communiqué* described the proposals of the Agrarians and Social Democrats as "in flagrant contradiction to the terms of the Moscow agreement".

*Jan. 10.*—M. Vishinsky arrived in Sofia and was received by the three Regents.

*Jan. 12.*—The talks on the inclusion of two opposition leaders in the Cabinet were terminated, the Government maintaining that the Moscow agreement did not require a reshuffle of the Cabinet, but only the addition of new Members. M. Vishinsky left for Moscow.

*Jan. 13.*—The Prime Minister stated that the Government hoped for recognition by Britain and the U.S.A. This would depend on the sincere efforts it made to put into effect the Moscow decisions, and it had made such efforts. It had shown its good will by trying to bring in representatives of the democratic groups outside the Fatherland Front, but failed in the face of their obstinacy.

**BURMA.** *Jan. 9.*—The Governor informed the Burma Anti-Fascist People's League that the British Government was unable to receive a deputation which wished to visit London to place before the Government the League's alternative proposals to the scheme outlined in the British White Paper of 1945. (The League had applied on Dec. 28 to the Governor for passage facilities to England.)

*Jan. 17.*—Ba Maw, head of the puppet Government under the Japanese, was arrested in Japan.

**CANADA.** *Jan. 10.*—Gen. Eisenhower, speaking in Ottawa, made a strong appeal to the United Nations to continue in peace time the active co-operation which had brought victory in the war.

**CHINA.** *Jan. 10.*—A cease-fire order was issued by both sides, and an announcement made in Chungking that it did not prejudice either military movement south of the Yangtze in execution of the Government's plan of military reorganization or the movement of its forces into or within Manchuria for the purpose of restoring Chinese sovereignty. It was understood that, after a visit from Gen. Marshall, Gen. Chiang Kai-shek had modified his demands that his forces should occupy specified strategic areas in Chahar and Jehol provinces.

The People's Consultative Committee then met, and Chiang Kai-shek announced a four-point programme to promote democratic government, i.e. (1) freedom of person, conscience, speech, publication, and association; (2) all political parties to be equal before the law and to operate openly within the law; (3) local self-government to be promoted in all places and popular elections held; and (4) political prisoners to be released, except traitors and those guilty of acts injurious to the Republic.

Gen. Chou En-lai accepted these points as a basis for achieving constitutional government.

*Jan. 12.*—Chou En-lai, addressing the People's Political Council in Chungking, said the Communists recognized the national leadership of Chiang Kai-shek and the status of the Kuomintang as the premier party, and urged the two parties to recognize each other's rights as the two largest in the State. It had never been the desire of the Communists

to establish a separate régime in Yenan; they had always favoured a coalition Government.

*Jan. 13.*—The Government's tentative plan for reorganization was published. It included: enlargement of the State Council, to include non-Kuomintang members, and strengthening of its powers so that it would decide legislative principles, administrative policy, important military measures, financial plans, matters submitted to it by the President of China, and proposals signed by one-third of the Council's members. Also, the expansion of the Executive Yuan and the creation of new ministries.

*Jan. 14.*—The Foreign Minister placed before the People's Political Council the Government's proposals for reorganizing itself into a coalition, under which all the parties would be represented on the State Council. The Council would be the highest policy-making body in the Republic.

Just after the cease-fire order was issued Communist troops attacked and recaptured Yingkow from the Government. They also seized Panshan, on the railway from Yingkow to Kowpangtze, but were driven out.

*Jan. 15.*—The Supreme Commander of the Government troops in Manchuria entered Mukden. All the Russians were stated to be leaving.

*Jan. 16.*—The Vice-Minister of War said in Chungking that the Government intended to reduce the Army to 1,800,000 (from 4,830,000) using the soldiers to build railways and roads and work on water conservancy projects.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** *Jan. 14.*—It was announced in Prague that an offer was to be made to foreign Governments to negotiate about the compensation to be paid to foreign shareholders of concerns due for nationalization, and promised that such shareholders would not be treated less favourably than Czechoslovaks.

**EGYPT.** *Jan. 6.*—Rowdy demonstrations against the Government took place in Cairo, and the police had to disperse the crowds.

*Jan. 7.*—The Prime Minister stated in Parliament that a Note had been sent to London on Dec. 20 asking for negotiations to be opened for treaty revision. He had also asked for a Note to be sent to London, Moscow, and Washington asking for representation at the peace negotiations with Italy.

*Jan. 10.*—King Ibn Saud arrived in Cairo on a State visit.

*Jan. 13.*—King Ibn Saud received a Palestine Arab delegation, to whom he said "the question of the Arabs and Palestine is a question for Islam in all Arab countries, including my own".

*Jan. 14.*—King Ibn Saud told the Egyptian press that he had never concealed his disapproval of Rashid Ali's revolt, but when he arrived in Saudi Arabia and threw himself on his (the King's) mercy there was no alternative to granting him refuge.

*Jan. 16.*—The King and King Ibn Saud, in a joint statement, said "We associate ourselves with all Moslem Arabs in their belief that Palestine is an Arab country, and it is the right of its people and the right of Moslem Arabs everywhere to preserve it as an Arab land. All the efforts made by the Arabs—Kings, heads of Governments, and peoples—in support of the Palestinian Arabs were done to maintain the principles of justice".

They added that they confirmed the constitution of the Arab League, which was that each Arab country had the right to decide its own future and enjoy independence.

**FRANCE.** *Jan. 7.*—The Franco-British Agreement of Aug. 31, 1945 for the re-establishment of the international administration of Tangier was ratified in Paris.

*Jan. 14.*—A document ratifying the decisions of the reparations conference was signed in Paris by representatives of Belgium, France, Britain, the U.S.A., Holland, Luxembourg, and Yugoslavia.

*Jan. 16.*—M. Herriot, speaking on foreign affairs in the Assembly for the Socialist-Radical Party, said nothing was to be gained by panting after the Big Three. France, at the U.N.O. conference, must press for measures ensuring her from attack from Germany. A solution might be found on the international plane, but, he said, "Let our allies realize that, without such a solution, it is useless to speak to us of peace or security".

*Jan. 17.*—Replying to the debate, the Foreign Minister reiterated the case for detaching from Germany a strip of territory on the west, and said that the Saar mines should be returned to France, and as a corollary the Saar territory must be included in the French economic, military, and Customs system. Its final status should be decided by an agreement among all the Allies.

A Ruhr territory independent of Germany would, he said, contain about 5 million people, and its integrity would be guaranteed by an international armed force. All interested States would have a share in its control, but the local administration would be chosen by the inhabitants. The mines and factories belonging to the Reich would be expropriated in favour of international public utility undertakings.

The Government accepted the proposal made by Britain, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. that the peace conference of 21 nations should be held in Paris on or about May 1.

*Jan. 20.*—Gen. de Gaulle summoned a meeting of the Cabinet and informed it that the conditions in which he was expected to lead the Government were such that he could not continue in office. The Assembly and its parties must find a new leader for the Government and work out their own solution. A member of his personal staff stated that his decision was irrevocable.

The M.R.P. leaders were understood to have decided on Jan. 18 that the coalition must be broken up.

**GERMANY.** *Jan. 7.*—The 1,800 Polish Jews in the 2 camps in the

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Russian sector of Berlin were found to have disappeared just before the hour fixed for evacuation.

*Jan. 8.*—A Red Army court at Eberswalde, near Berlin, sentenced to death 11 Germans who, wearing Russian uniform, had terrorized the neighbourhood.

*Jan. 9.*—U.S. soldiers held demonstrations in Frankfurt in protest against the slowing down of redeployment.

Hitler's Adjutant, Gen. von Below, was arrested at Bad Godesberg.

*Jan. 10.*—The Allied Control Council in Berlin announced that it had decided that the production capacity of the steel industry to be left in Germany should be  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million ingot tons—this figure to be subject to review for further reduction if it appeared necessary; and that the allowable production of steel should not exceed 5,800,000 ingot tons in any future year without the permission of the Council, but this figure would be subject to annual review.

*Jan. 14.*—The sentence on Gen. Meyer was commuted to life imprisonment in Canada, as he was not guilty of issuing direct orders for the shooting of the Canadian prisoners. (*see Dec. 28.*)

*Jan. 15.*—Two German officers and an N.C.O. were sentenced to death (at Naples) and 1 to life imprisonment for hanging an American and shooting a British and 3 other American officers and 2 other soldiers at Bolzano in March, 1945, after torturing them to obtain military information.

*Jan. 16.*—The Commander of the U.S. Forces of occupation announced that no more mass demonstrations would be permitted without the sanction of military commanders. He said the mass meetings, not interfered with because of "confusion and apparent misunderstanding in the minds of many men regarding problems of redeployment", had served their purpose.

*Jan. 17.*—Gen. Winkler and 6 other Germans were hanged for war crimes committed at Nikolayev, on the Black Sea. The prosecutor stated that 105,000 people had been done to death in that area during the occupation when the General was in command.

*Jan. 18.*—The first 2 British search parties authorized by the Russians to visit their zone to seek missing personnel and civilians arrived back in Berlin after being given every facility and being entertained free of charge.

**GREAT BRITAIN.** *Jan. 9.*—The King entertained the delegates to the General Assembly of the United Nations. (*see Special Note.*)

Mr. Winston Churchill left the country for the U.S.A.

Mr. Byrnes told the press that there was no misunderstanding between the representatives of the four Governments sponsoring the resolution about atomic energy. "They understand", he said, "that provision as to safeguards is intended to apply to all phases of any plan recommended by the Commission. Under the language of the resolution it is obvious that safeguards shall apply to the first stage of any plan recommended by the Commission."

*Jan. 15.*—The Foreign Office published a Note from the Government

of Guatemala, dated Sept. 24, 1945, and a dispatch to the Chargé d'Affaires in Guatemala dated Jan. 14 inviting the Guatemalan Government to bring before the International Court of Justice a dispute regarding their frontier with British Honduras. As soon as the Court was constituted, it stated, the British Government would, in any case, formally declare their readiness to accept its jurisdiction in the matter.

*Jan. 16.*—Signor Nenni, the Italian Vice-Premier, arrived in London.

*Jan. 17.*—It was learnt that the Government had drawn up draft terms of trusteeship for Tanganyika, the Cameroons, and Togoland and were sending them to the most directly interested State, in accordance of Article 79 of the U.N. Charter.

*Jan. 20.*—U.N.R.R.A. headquarters issued a statement showing that nearly £5 million worth of food was being sent to European countries out of Britain's first contribution of £80 million to the administration. £60 million was provisionally set aside for supplies, the other £20 million being for shipping and relief services and for administrative expenses. £903 million had been paid or pledged by the 47 member States by the end of 1945.

**GREECE.** *Jan. 7.*—Strikes spread in Athens, having begun among communication workers when the Government refused to satisfy the confederation of labour's demand for higher wages, based on the cost of living index.

*Jan. 8.*—The Regent and the Prime Minister received an E.A.M. delegation, who asked for the formation of a representative Government, and said E.A.M. was ready to take its share of responsibility in the effort for reconstruction, which could be attained only with the collaboration of the masses.

Workers in the gas, tobacco, water, electricity, and other services joined the strike. The confederation of labour announced a general strike in Patras and Corfu, and railway workers began a 24-hour solidarity strike. The Prime Minister stated that the movement was inspired by the political ambitions of the extreme left-wing elements. Press reports described the situation as one of an economy completely disorganized owing to inflation and to lack of transport. The drachma had collapsed to 180,000 to the £, and the average monthly wage of a transport worker was worth about 10s., enough for 5 days' food.

*Jan. 9.*—The Liberal Party leader, M. Venizelos, announced that he had signed terms of collaboration with the Populists, and the Party office issued a statement that, after hearing his report on the negotiations, it had decided to submit it to the Prime Minister (the leader of the Liberal Party).

The strike of the electricity workers in Athens was called off when the Prime Minister promised to consider their grievances.

*Jan. 10.*—M. Kazantzakis, Minister without Portfolio, resigned owing, it was reported, to his group (the "Socialist workers group") joining the Socialist Party.

*Jan. 13.*—A meeting of many thousand people took place in Athens called by organizations in favour of the union between the Liberals and the Populists. It was addressed by MM. Papandreu, Kanellopoulos, Venizelos, and Tsaldaris, and passed resolutions calling for elections on a majority system.

*Jan. 17.*—A strike of civil servants for increases of pay began.

*Jan. 18.*—Printers went on strike, and only 3 papers appeared, Communist, Socialist, and E.A.M. respectively.

*Jan. 19.*—A decree was issued proclaiming the General Election to be held on March 31 for a "revisionary Parliament".

*Jan. 20.*—A mass meeting of left-wing parties was held in Athens and was addressed by the President of the Athens Union of Republican Associations, who attacked the King and denounced M. Venizelos's efforts to organize a "coalition of nationalist anti-democratic parties". He asked for a purge of the army and police and of collaborationists, and for energetic measures against "right-wing terrorism". The crowd called for E.A.M. participation in the Government.

At Kalamata the right-wing group called X attacked the Communists, and Government troops were called in.

The newspaper strike ended with the papers granting substantial increases in wages.

**GUATEMALA.** *Jan. 15.*—Frontier dispute with British Honduras, and British Government's action. (*see Great Britain.*)

**HAITI.** *Jan. 12.*—The President of the Republic was forced to resign by the Army, and held under house arrest.

**HUNGARY.** *Jan. 10.*—Bardossy, the former Premier, was hanged in Budapest.

*Jan. 11.*—The commercial treaty with Russia entered into force with an exchange of copies between the Foreign Minister and the Soviet Minister in Budapest.

*Jan. 14.*—It was announced that, in response to a request by the Prime Minister, the Central Committee of U.N.R.R.A. had decided to provide aid up to a value of £1 million to help to check famine and disease.

*Jan. 17.*—Meetings of the 4 principal parties decided on the abolition of the Monarchy and the establishment of a Republic.

**INDIA.** *Jan. 10.*—Demonstrations by some 50 U.S. soldiers took place in Calcutta in protest against the demobilization policy.

*Jan. 11.*—Mr. Jinnah, speaking in Bombay to some 50,000 people, said the Muslims were a powerful, well-organized, and determined nation, and were prepared even to shed their blood for *Pakistan*. Failure to achieve it, he said, "would mean our national extinction".

*Jan. 12.*—The delegate to the reparations conference in Paris told

the press in Delhi that the conference recommended that India should have 2 per cent of the total reparations, and 2.9 per cent in respect of capital equipment. India's total expenditure in the war (including recoverable expenditure on behalf of the British Government) was \$12,000 million.

The Government lifted the ban on Mr. Gandhi's paper *Harijan*, suppressed in August, 1942 after the "Quit India" resolution.

*Jan. 14.*—The Government announced an ordinance empowering the Central Government to direct the Reserve Bank to inspect any banking company and, if necessary, take corrective action, to prevent unsound and speculative practices, such as the grant of large unsecured loans to persons connected with the management, the securing of control of non-banking companies by purchasing their shares at inflated prices, and, in general, the utilization of bank funds against the interests of the depositors.

*Jan. 17.*—The Viceroy addressed the Chamber of Princes on the part the rulers would be expected to play in assisting India's growth to full constitutional stature, and received from the Chancellor the promise of the fullest possible support. He assured the Princes that there was no intention to initiate any change in their relationship with the Crown or their rights guaranteed by treaty engagements without their consent. But he was confident that they would take their full share in the discussions he had announced in September, as well as in the intended constitution-making body, and that their consent to any changes which might emerge as a result of these negotiations would not be unreasonably withheld.

In the case of the small States, where administration was not so efficient as in others, it was incumbent upon them so to modify their constitutional position as to ensure the welfare of their subjects. That involved that every State should possess political stability, adequate financial resources, and effective association of the people with the administration. If a State could not fulfil these conditions, he strongly urged that it should arrange to do so either by joining a larger unit, or by combining with other small States to form a political entity of sufficient size. Lord Wavell also paid a warm tribute to the steadfast loyalty of the Princes during the dark days of the war.

*Jan. 18.*—The Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes read a declaration when moving in the Chamber a resolution promising every possible contribution to the solution of the constitutional problem. It recommended that every State should have a constitution in which the powers of the rulers should be exercised through constitutional channels; that there should be popular institutions with elected majorities to ensure the close association of the people with the Governments; that the judiciary should be independent of the executive; that the rulers' civil list should be clearly demarcated and fixed at a reasonable percentage of the ordinary revenue; that the incidence of taxation should be equitable; and that a substantial proportion of the revenue should be allocated for the benefit of the people.

*Jan. 19.*—The U.S. Secretary for War arrived in Delhi.

ITALY. *Jan. 8.*—Fighting with well-armed separatists was reported in several places in western Sicily, and a strong force of troops had to be called in to drive them from positions just west of Palermo.

*Jan. 10.*—A treaty of commerce with Spain was signed in Rome providing, *inter alia*, for partial liquidation of debts incurred by Spain during the civil war (estimated by the Italians at 5,000 million lire).

Rioting occurred in Naples when some 4,000 "Reduci" (returned prisoners-of-war and workers) attacked the Town Hall and other buildings and demanded work. The police were forced to fire. All assemblies of more than 5 people were forbidden in the city.

*Jan. 11.*—Fighting flared up again near Palermo.

*Jan. 12.*—The Prime Minister gave the Consulta an account of the assurances he had received from the British and U.S. Ambassadors that Italy's chances of stating her case before the peace treaty was drafted had been in no way damaged by the Moscow decisions. At the same time it was a shock to Italy, he said, to find that 21 different Governments were to have a hand in drawing it up, several of which had certainly done less for victory than Italy had.

*Jan. 19.*—The Prime Minister signed an agreement with the head of the U.N.R.R.A. mission for Italy under which it would take over the responsibility for importing enough grain and flour to enable the Government to give a basic bread ration to the whole population, and would provide credits for large quantities of coal, oil, and other raw materials for industry. The programme contemplated the allocation to Italy of over £112 million credit during 1946.

JAPAN. *Jan. 7.*—Two Japanese officers were sentenced to death in Borneo for causing the death of nearly all a party of 824 Australian and British prisoners-of-war in June, 1945. A spokesman of the Foreign Office stated that the order eliminating from public life all the officials associated with Japan's acts of aggression since 1937 was "calculated to paralyse all forms of government down to the village level". It destroyed the Liberal and Progressive Parties, leaving only the Social Democrats and the Communists.

*Jan. 10.*—It was learnt that the Emperor had asked the Minister of Justice to report on the Cabinet meetings, which had been discussing the situation resulting from Gen. MacArthur's order outlawing from public office all those responsible for Japanese aggressive policy. (This applied to all but two of the Cabinet, the Premier and the Foreign Minister.)

*Jan. 11.*—The Cabinet decided to remain in office till the Elections but to discard all the Members who came under Gen. MacArthur's ban. Two Ministers resigned.

*Jan. 12.*—The Premier appointed 5 non-party Ministers to replace those compelled to resign.

*Jan. 13.*—Allied H.Q. ordered the Government to hold the first General Election not earlier than March 15, under a new law guaranteeing suffrage to women and young men.

*Jan. 14.*—Adm. Hamanaka was sentenced to death on Morotai Island (Moluccas) for the murder of an Australian prisoner.

*Jan. 15.*—It was learnt that 5 Japanese officers in prison in Singapore had committed suicide after confessing to their commanding officer that they had executed 12 British officers captured during raids on Malacca and elsewhere.

An Army captain was sentenced (at Melbourne) to be shot for the murder of an Australian prisoner-of-war in Dutch New Guinea.

*Jan. 18.*—Allied H.Q. ordered the arrest of 7 generals and 110 other suspected war criminals. At Morotai 9 officers were sentenced to death and 6 soldiers to 10 years' imprisonment for the murder of 3 Australian prisoners of war.

JAVA. *Jan. 7.*—A British destroyer shelled Indonesian positions near Semarang. British casualties in the Dutch East Indies up till Jan. 1 totalled 1,289, including 206 killed and 177 missing.

*Jan. 8.*—Terrorist premises in Buitenzorg were combed by British troops, who occupied the palace, which was hurriedly evacuated by the Indonesians. Large stocks of arms and explosives were found.

*Jan. 13.*—It was announced that a British officer and 5 men had been killed in an ambush north of Bringkang. In Batavia a suspect was arrested, and British and Indian troops, with tanks, cleared an area round their barracks, which Indonesians were attacking. Heavy sniping occurred at Bandoeng and Tjimahi.

*Jan. 14.*—Extremists tried to force their way into a part of Bandoeng where former internees had been concentrated, and were repulsed by British and Indian troops using tanks and artillery.

THE NETHERLANDS. *Jan. 17.*—The Lower House of Parliament, by 49 votes to 30, passed a resolution inviting the Government to send a Parliamentary commission to Java, since the Chamber had not sufficient information to form an independent conclusion regarding the conduct of the Lieut.-Governor-General.

PALESTINE. *Jan. 8.*—The High Commissioner granted to the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Co. (U.S.-owned) a concession for a pipe-line from Saudi Arabia to cross Palestine to the sea.

Richon-le-Zion was searched, and 54 persons detained.

*Jan. 9.*—The Arab press published a proclamation by the Arab Higher Committee appealing to the Arabs to boycott "everything Jewish", including all shops, factories, transport, and cinemas.

The Committee rejected the High Commissioner's request for the admission of 1,500 Jews a month, pending the decision of the Anglo-American Commission.

*Jan. 12.*—A train was held up by armed Jews at Hadera when a land mine derailed the engine, and £35,000 was stolen.

*Jan. 13.*—The police searched Hadera and arrested 17 suspects reported to belong to the *Irgun Zvai Leumi*.

*Jan. 14.*—Armed Jews stole 10 tons of nitrate of soda from the I.C.I. stores at Tel Aviv.

*Jan. 15.*—The High Commissioner received a deputation from the General Council of Palestine Jews who reiterated their requests for the reopening of immigration and the revocation of the land laws.

*Jan. 16.*—Joint statement by King Farouk and King Ibn Saud. (see *Egypt*.)

*Jan. 17.*—The vessel *Enzio Sereni*, alleged to be carrying illegal immigrants, was seized off the coast.

*Jan. 18.*—Some 900 Jews were landed from the *Enzio Sereni* and interned, and the captain and crew were arrested.

*Jan. 19.*—Heavy explosions occurred in Jerusalem and an attempt was made to wreck the central police station. The broadcasting station ceased working. A British Superintendent of Police and an army captain and a policeman were killed.

*Jan. 20.*—The police discovered large quantities of arms, bombs, explosives, etc., in Jerusalem, where over 10,000 people were interrogated. A curfew was imposed.

**PERSIA.** *Jan. 7.*—The Premier was urged to resign by 20 of the leading Deputies, who also recommended the rejection of the Anglo-American suggestion that the Government should accept an inquiry by an Anglo-American-Russian commission. The Left-wing press also opposed the suggestion.

*Jan. 10.*—The Minister of Finance announced in Parliament that as a majority of the House was against the Anglo-American suggestion for a commission of inquiry the Government would reject it.

Political clashes were reported at Zenjan and Kazvin, in the Russian-occupied area, with several fatal casualties.

*Jan. 12.*—The Governor of Semnan was prevented from reaching the town from Teheran by a strike in the railway yard staged by the "Democrats", and accordingly returned to the capital.

*Jan. 13.*—The first provincial council election sponsored by the Government was held at Kazvin, in Russian-occupied territory. There was no sign of outside interference in the polling.

*Jan. 14.*—The Russians officially informed the British and U.S. Embassies that the presence of press correspondents in Azerbaijan was "at present inopportune".

M. Saltaneh, a former Prime Minister, was reported to have been offered the Premiership by a group of political leaders.

*Jan. 15.*—The Prime Minister told the *Majlis* that the delegation to the U.N. Assembly had been instructed to refer the Persian question to the Security Council. The Government had rejected verbal proposals from Britain and the U.S.A. that they should agree to a three-Power commission, and their counter-proposals had not been replied to. So they decided to lay their case before the United Nations, but only when it became clear that their negotiations with Moscow were unfruitful. M. Hakimi also stated that he was ready to resign if the Assembly asked him to do so.

*Jan. 19.*—The Government communicated to the United Nations a Note reading "Owing to interference by the Soviet Union, through the medium of their officials and armed forces, in the internal affairs of Iran a situation has arisen which may lead to international friction. In accordance with Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations the Iranian Government has repeatedly tried to negotiate with the Government of the Soviet Union, but has met with no success. Accordingly the Iranian delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations on behalf of the Iranian Government have the honour to request you, in accordance with the terms of Article 35 (1) of the Charter, to bring the matter to the attention of the Security Council so that the Council may investigate the situation and recommend appropriate terms of settlement".

The delegation was prepared to furnish a full statement of facts which had given rise to the present situation and a copy of the relevant treaty binding the two parties.

*Jan. 20.*—The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs resigned.

**POLAND.** *Jan. 7.*—The Central Committee of Polish Jews issued an appeal to them to remain in Poland, declaring that a "panic" exodus would serve only the ends of speculators.

*Jan. 10.*—U.S. statement regarding restrictions on American business in Poland. (*see U.S.A.*)

**RUMANIA.** *Jan. 7.*—It was learnt that M. Hatieganu would join the Government as representative of the National Peasant Party, and M. Romnicena for the Liberal Party.

*Jan. 8.*—The Cabinet ratified the decisions of the Moscow conference regarding Rumania, and issued a pledge to fulfil the conditions required by Britain and the U.S.A. for recognition. It decided to hold elections as soon as possible, with universal suffrage and secret polling, and to guarantee freedom of press, speech, religion, and association.

The two new Ministers took the oath as Ministers of State without Portfolio.

*Jan. 10.*—Mr. Harriman left Bucarest for London.

**SAUDI ARABIA.** *Jan. 10.*—The King in Cairo. (*see Egypt.*)

**SPAIN.** *Jan. 12.*—The Foreign Minister told the foreign press that the transfer to the Ministry of Education of the departments—press, radio, theatre, and propaganda—which had been dependent on the Falange had been completed, with the appointment of 4 directors-general of those activities.

**SWEDEN.** *Jan. 11.*—The Budget was introduced in the Riksdag, showing 900 million kroner allotted for defence, as compared with 238 million in the Budget for 1939.

**SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.** *Jan. 12.*—It was learnt that no Note had been handed to the Lebanese Foreign Minister by the Soviet Minister, but the latter had in conversation conveyed the support of his Government for Lebanese independence and integrity and his dissociation from the Anglo-French agreement. The conversation was afterwards minuted in a diplomatic *précis verbal*.

*Jan. 17.*—The Armenian national council in Syria and the Lebanon telegraphed to the President of the United Nations Assembly saying, "In the name of 200,000 Armenian refugees in both countries we demand the return to Soviet Russia of Armenian territories seized by the Turks". Some 250,000 Armenians in the Red Army and many thousands in other allied forces had fought for the abolition of oppression and the assurance of permanent peace.

**TRANSJORDAN.** *Jan. 18.*—The Emir Abdullah received the High Commissioner, who communicated to him the British Government's decision to establish Transjordan as a sovereign independent State.

**TURKEY.** *Jan. 8.*—A new Democratic Party was formed, led by M. Bayar, the former Premier. Its principal aim was the immediate and unfettered application of the Constitution and a wider popular share in public affairs.

*Jan. 14.*—*Aksham*, in an article on Russia's foreign policy, agreed that her desire for reparations and security was legitimate, but disputed the view that this security could be ensured by imposing by force "friendly" Governments on small neighbouring countries. Even if they all united against Russia they could cause her very little danger if they were not supported by a great Power, which could be only Britain or America.

*Jan. 17.*—Ankara radio broadcast a statement by the Foreign Minister regarding their foreign relations in which he said, "For the time being there is no problem with which the United Nations Organization can deal. The Soviet Union has put forward no official claims for territorial changes. The suggestions made in certain Soviet papers are purely and simply rejected by Turkish public opinion. Turkey has made no counter-proposals of any kind".

**U.S.A.** *Jan. 7.*—Mr. Byrnes left for London. In a statement to the press he said the United States would use its power of veto on the Security Council if that was necessary to safeguard its own interests in the formation of the atomic energy control commission. He added that the Moscow formula contained no suggestion that the commission should "tackle the problem of how the atomic bomb was produced", and declared that the secret was safe.

*Jan. 8.*—President Truman, in a press statement, endorsed what Mr. Byrnes said about the atomic bomb. The commission's function was advisory only, and its recommendations would have to be accepted by the Senate before they were binding on the United States.

A strike of telegraph operators in the New York area began.

*Jan. 9.*—The Secretary of the Treasury, in a broadcast, said the loan to Britain was "sound business for America", and it was only equivalent to 2 weeks' expenditure during the war. He regarded it not as an expenditure, but an investment.

The strike of telegraphists spread to telephone workers in 42 States.

*Jan. 10.*—The State Department announced that the Ambassador in Warsaw had refused to recommend U.S. financial aid to Poland because of the restrictions placed on American business men as a result of the nationalization of all industries employing 50 or more workers on each shift. (The trade treaty of 1931 guaranteed freedom of action to business men of both countries.)

*Jan. 11.*—Mr. Herbert Morrison arrived in New York. Asked by the press whether the Labour Government in Britain intended to "preside over the liquidation of the Empire", he replied, "No fear; we are great friends of the jolly old Empire, and are going to stick to it."

*Jan. 14.*—President Truman received Mr. Morrison in Washington. Mr. Churchill arrived in New York.

*Jan. 15.*—Gen. Eisenhower told a meeting of Senators and Congressmen that the Army had work to do—the job of reconverting Germany, reconverting Japan, and reconverting itself. Enemy territory must be occupied, and the Army had to preserve billions of dollars worth of surplus property until civilian agencies could take it over. He said that by July 1 every man would be demobilized who had a right to expect release by that time. In October—December discharges averaged 1,200,000 monthly, and had they continued at that rate the Army would have been "out of men" by March. By July 1 8 million would have been discharged.

President Truman told the press that the Japanese mandated islands captured by U.S. forces which were not needed by America would be placed under trusteeship, but those which were needed would be kept as long as was necessary. By keeping them he meant individual trusteeship, the others being placed under general U.N.O. trusteeship. U.N.O. would be asked for authority to establish such individual trusteeship.

*Jan. 19.*—The Assistant Secretary of State told the press in New York that the Government was determined that no complacency on its part should allow "a new growth of Fascism in the Western Hemisphere". He described Col. Peron as "one of Hitler's and Goebbel's imitators in this hemisphere".

*Jan. 20.*—A strike of steel workers began in all the big plants in the country, involving some 800,000 men.

U.S.S.R. *Jan. 7.*—The Bulgarian Premier, Foreign Minister, and Minister of the Interior arrived in Moscow and were received by Marshal Stalin.

*Jan. 8.*—*Izvestia* reported that the negotiations in Sofia on the broadening of the Government failed because the Government rejected

demands by the Agrarian Union and the Social Democrats for new elections and a general reorganization of the Cabinet, accompanied by a change in domestic policy. It pointed out that the Moscow agreement proceeded from recognition of the fact that the existing Government was capable of carrying through the democratic reform of Bulgaria.

*Jan. 14.*—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. ratified the Treaty of Aug. 16, 1945, establishing the frontier with Poland.

M. Kruglov was appointed Minister of the Interior, in succession to M. Beria, who had asked to be relieved of his duties owing to pressure of other work.

*Jan. 16.*—Moscow radio, quoting an article in *New Times*, said the problem of foreign troops in Syria and the Lebanon was still unsettled. Incidentally the British troops greatly outnumbered the French. Both parties agreed on one thing—neither was in any hurry to withdraw its troops from the Levant. The position of the 2 countries from the viewpoint of international law could not give rise to any doubt; the actual state of affairs was quite a different thing.

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THE formal opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations was preceded by a banquet to the delegates given by the King at St. James's Palace on Jan. 9. His Majesty, in an address of welcome, said that in the long course of Britain's history no more important meeting had ever taken place within the boundaries of London. They in Britain had been able for a long period of history to enjoy both freedom and order. It was clear that neither could be preserved without the other, and "now you have come here from the four quarters of the earth to seek those ends for all countries and all peoples". It was for them to lay the foundations of a new world, where such a conflict as had just terminated must never be repeated.

The Charter of the United Nations reaffirmed their faith in the equal rights of men and women, of nations great and small—a recognition of a vital principle their enemies had tried in vain to overthrow. But the rights both of nations and individuals could not exist and stand secure unless nations and individuals alike were both members of an ordered society. Such rights could only be fully enjoyed when they were recognized as part of a common interest in which all shared. And to every right belonged a corresponding duty—a cardinal point which was rightly emphasized in the obligations assumed under the Charter.

The outstanding feature of membership of the United Nations was service—service to the whole community of nations. This was the prime motive-power which must inspire all its actions, and enable the approach to every difficulty to be made in the spirit of co-operation, understanding, and goodwill.

*Jan. 10.*—The first General Assembly of the United Nations opened in London, and was attended by the delegates of 51 States. Mr. Attlee, in an address of welcome, emphasized that the United Nations Organization must become the over-riding factor in foreign policy and they must recognize the truth proclaimed at Geneva by M. Litvinov, that "peace is indivisible". The welfare of every one of them was bound up with the welfare of the world as a whole.

They had learnt from past mistakes, and had the advantage over the League that they were now united, whereas neither America nor Russia were present at the formative stages of the League. Further, the constitution of the new Organization provided for the sanction of force to support the rule of law; and he also thought that the ordinary men and women in every nation now had a greater realization of what was at stake.

In the purposes of the United Nations they had linked with the achievement of freedom from fear the delivery of mankind from the peril of want. To the individual citizen the spectre of economic insecurity was more constant, more imminent than the shadow of war. Without social justice and security there was no real foundation for peace, for it was among the socially disinherited and those who had

nothing to lose that the gangster and the aggressor recruited their supporters. He believed that it was just as vital to make the Economic and Social Council an effective instrument as the Security Council.

Their ultimate aim was not just the negation of war but the creation of a world of security and freedom, of a world governed by justice and the moral law.

M. Spaak was elected president by a secret ballot in which he received 28 votes and M. Lie (Norway) 23. This followed a decision by a show of hands (15 to 9) in favour of a secret ballot.

*Jan. 11.*—M. Spaak, thanking the Assembly for his election, said that for the success of their work the two cardinal virtues of good faith and goodwill were necessary, and they would not succeed unless they could place the interests of their own countries in the wider setting of the general interest. They must have a feeling that they were 51 delegations to the same Assembly which collectively represented the interests of the whole.

At San Francisco there were two opposing conceptions of organization. One system had triumphed, one which conferred particular influence upon the Great Powers. This system must now be accepted, and "I think I should speak for the whole Assembly", he said, "when I say that we attach the utmost importance so far as the Great Powers are concerned to a good understanding among them, and it is from that that we expect success, security, and a lasting peace".

The war from which they had emerged victorious was one in which the whole form of life was imperilled and in which they had to defend the highest ideals of mankind, and whole peoples were engaged in it. They now asked for their reward—peace, just and durable.

On the President's recommendation it was agreed that the Credentials Committee should consist of representatives of Byelo-Russia, China, France, Haiti, Denmark, Paraguay, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

*Jan. 12.*—A Russian motion to postpone the election of the 6 non-permanent members of the Security Council till the beginning of the following week was defeated by 34 votes to 9, by roll call. The following were then elected to the Security Council: Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, Poland, and Netherlands, with Australia and Canada receiving the next largest number of votes but not enough to secure the necessary two-thirds majority. Canada then proposed that the election of Australia as the sixth member be agreed to unanimously. The President pointed out that a secret vote must be taken, and this was done, resulting in Australia receiving 46 votes and Canada 3.

Voting for the 18 members of the Economic and Social Council followed, and the following secured the two-thirds majority: Chile, China, Norway, Britain, Peru, U.S.S.R., U.S.A., Canada, Lebanon, Colombia, France, India, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Cuba, and Greece.

*Jan. 13.*—The General Committee—the bureau of the Assembly—held its first meeting, and decided that the resolutions on U.N.R.R.A. and the atomic commission should be discussed at the London session.

Jan. 14.—Voting for the 18th place in the Security Council between New Zealand and Yugoslavia gave neither country the necessary majority, whereupon Mr. Fraser, the New Zealand Premier, asked to be allowed to withdraw their candidature and let Yugoslavia be elected. This gesture was very much appreciated, and a formal ballot was taken, when 45 votes were cast for Yugoslavia and 3 for New Zealand. There were 2 abstentions.

The Assembly began the discussion of the Preparatory Commission's report. Mr. Byrnes pointed out that the Charter was now part of the law of nations, and the Assembly was a living reality. If the United Nations lived in the minds and hearts of their peoples it would be able to adapt itself to the changing needs of a changing world, and would endure. If it lacked broad popular support no Charter would save it.

They must dedicate themselves to the task of exposing and eliminating blind and unreasoning fears and the difficulties they created. Nothing could help dispel fear and suspicion so much as co-operation in common tasks. There was an idea that the great States might abuse the rights given them under the Charter, but he had confidence that they would respect their obligations.

Jan. 15.—Speaking in the Assembly the Persian delegate said Persia was confronted by certain great difficulties of an international character. Under the Charter (Art. 14) she might have brought the matter before the Assembly but had refrained, rather reluctantly, at the last moment from doing so. If hopes of a settlement were disappointed she reserved the right to raise the matter, and if that was done it would be "a test case of the most clear and explicit kind".

The Danish Foreign Minister said that the settlement of all the Germans displaced by war and defeat was "a social and political problem of stupendous magnitude", and there was grave danger of a German migration spreading in several directions as a result of sheer pressure of population from within.

The Dutch Prime Minister said that what was at stake was whether the human race was prepared to recognize certain moral principles as a basis of orderly society. The German concentration camps were gone, but the danger resulting from a human society which no longer recognized absolute moral standards was still present both within nations and in the international community.

The General Committee met, and considered a telegram from the Italian Premier asking that Italy might soon be allowed to take her place in the international community so that she could play her part in the common effort to secure the peaceful and just reconstruction of the world. It was agreed to publish it in the *Journal*.

The Committee also decided to refer to a sub-committee a request by the World Federation of Trade Unions claiming its inalienable right to participate in the work of the U.N.O.

Jan. 16.—The Norwegian delegate, addressing the Assembly, said he was convinced that peace was one and indivisible, and they would be well-advised not to try to find signs of power politics where they did not exist; they should not try to divide the world into separate *blocs*,

when all constructive forces were in fact working together for the common welfare.

They should squarely face the fact that certain major political and territorial problems, mainly those connected with the peace treaties, would have to be dealt with by other means than the United Nations. The Great Powers had far greater responsibilities than the rest, and it was their duty to work out fair and just settlements. Yet the smaller nations had a great part to play. Within the framework of the Charter some small nations would naturally collaborate more closely between themselves, and in this spirit the Northern countries were collaborating on economic and cultural matters.

The Argentine delegate described his country as "now and always profoundly democratic", and pledged full support of the Charter.

The Polish delegate said permanent peace was possible if they fulfilled 3 conditions: (1) Fascism definitely destroyed and full democracy secured; (2) Co-operation secured of the great Powers, and democracy in international relations; (3) planning on an international scale in order to equalize the standards of civilization and progress of all peoples and to speed up the development of backward countries. He warned them against the rebirth of the evil influence of vested capitalist interests in national policies, and demanded the complete obliteration of Fascism in the name of 23 million living Poles and 6 million dead.

They had entered a new phase of historic development he said; they were now able to rationalize the progress of history as they had rationalized economic processes. He also pointed out that prosperity, as well as peace, was indivisible. Equal standards of living and a just distribution of national wealth and income were essential for the progress of a nation. The same principle must be applied to international life; there must be a just distribution of the world's resources.

*Jan. 17.*—The Security Council held its first meeting, composed of representatives of Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, the U.K., the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R. Mr. Stettinius said the Council must make the possibility of lasting peace into a certainty; it must see that peace was kept in fact. The powers given it by the Charter were sufficient for this purpose.

Mr. Bevin addressed the Assembly and made the following points:

The establishment of an International Secretariat completely independent of Governments, and also of an International Civil Service Commission, was of the greatest importance.

The manner in which the U.N.O. was administered would, in a large measure, affect the confidence in it of the peoples of the world; their budgetary procedure should be extremely thorough; there should be no niggardliness, but the financial controls must be such as to give the Treasuries of the different countries confidence in the Administration. The cost per annum of the U.N.O. to all the 51 nations would be less than half the cost to the U.K. alone of a single day in the war.

During all these discussions they had accepted the view that aggressive war was a crime, and that he who started such aggression must pay the price; but "you cannot change the world in a moment", he said.

"What this Assembly can do is to prepare the soil in which great and little Powers can, as it were, grow together in a common endeavour for their mutual benefit."

In order to achieve security, every member must take full responsibility for supplying the necessary forces, funds, and supplies to carry out swiftly its decisions against any aggression. The Military Staff Committee to be formed under the Security Council would be given a new objective—not to fight a narrow nationalist war, but to defend the peace of the world.

In this struggle for security they must not forget that a great many difficulties had arisen from maldistribution, bad economic conditions, and social disorder, and that these had contributed to war and conflict. The task which thus devolved upon the Economic and Social Council was an urgent one, and had just as important a bearing on world security and peace as the Security Council.

The British Government had circulated a resolution for action by the Assembly upon U.N.R.R.A., because this great ambulance work must be carried on long enough to enable economic rehabilitation to be effective. They felt that the United Nations should keep closely in touch with U.N.R.R.A. and give what assistance it could, and that in return the whole 51 nations should make their proper contribution to its work and development. Shortage of food would create for them problems, moral and physical, which it would take years to overcome.

The British Government was anxious for the continued use and strengthening of the International Labour Office, which, by its methods and its power of making conventions applicable universally, could become an even more potent instrument than it had been already in creating new levels of human existence over the whole world.

The Government had decided to enter forthwith into negotiations for placing Tanganyika, the Cameroons, and Togoland under the trusteeship system. As regards Palestine, they thought it necessary to await the return of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry before putting forward any proposals relating to its future.

It was the Government's intention to take steps in the near future for establishing Transjordan as a sovereign independent State and for recognizing its status as such.

They attached the highest importance to the International Court of Justice which they desired to develop as an essential organ of the United Nations. They hoped that all delegations would realize the necessity of electing judges who, by their qualifications and character, would command the confidence of the whole world. They considered the greatest emphasis should be laid on the principle contained in Article 36 of the Charter that legal disputes should, as a general rule, be decided by the International Court.

The United Nations, he concluded, was not something remote or impersonal to which they could hand over problems and expect them to be solved without further effort on their own part. "The United Nations is really all of us working together, all peoples in all

countries and continents—it is not 'them', it is 'us'; every one of us seeking, as citizens of the world, peace and security for humanity."

The Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, who said they must keep their feet on the ground this time while at the same time showing the same idealism as in 1919, declared that wars should be stopped by controlling all means for war, whether physical, chemical, biological, psychological, or sociological, and there should be an international protection of science against abuse of its progress for political or militarist schemes. The arms industry and the latest devastating inventions should be put under the control of the United Nations.

He also said that as long as anti-Semitism existed they had no right to call themselves a civilized people.

The South African delegate approved the decision to bring the administration of the mandated territories under the trusteeship system, and welcomed any step which would serve to associate the world with the problems of Africa. As for the former German South-West Africa, the only territory which had its borders contiguous with those of the Mandatory, it had its own self-governing institutions and the Union Government considered it incumbent on it to consult the people regarding the form which their future government should take. Arrangements were in train for such consultations, and until they were concluded the Union Government must reserve its position concerning the future of the mandate, together with its right of full liberty of action, as provided for in para. 1 of Article 80 of the Charter.

*Jan. 18.*—M. Gromyko, addressing the Assembly, considered that the work done in creating U.N.O. had been carried out in an atmosphere of co-operation between the democratic nations, great and small, and that the San Francisco Conference, having created the Charter, had on the whole coped with a serious task of great historic significance. The actions of the U.N.O. would be effective if the great Powers, which had borne the main burden of the war, continued to act in a spirit of unanimity and accord. If not, they would not be effective. Endeavours to counterpoise big States with small ones could not be regarded with sympathy by the Organization, as they had nothing in common with its principles.

He issued a warning against allegations that voices were being heard speaking as though the Charter had already become obsolete and needed revision; they were dangerous and under certain conditions might lead to serious consequences. It was also necessary to point out that some provisions of the Charter were not yet being put into effect, those, he said, which related to non-self-governing territories and to the trusteeship system. The speediest carrying out of the trusteeship principles was one of their most important obligations, and there was one category of territories with regard to which steps might be taken now. The Preparatory Commission had adopted a special resolution inviting certain members of the United Nations to accelerate the process of changing one of the categories of these territories into trust territories. The action was now with those Powers to which the resolution referred.

He ended by emphasizing that it would be a mistake to consider that

military victory over Fascism removed the necessity for the further struggle for the eradication and complete liquidation of the nests of Fascism still existing, and this fight could not be separated from the work of U.N.O.

*Jan. 19.*—M. Bidault pointed out that, unlike the League Covenant, the Charter was not tied up with the peace treaties, and went on to call attention to the number and variety of the problems the Assembly would have to deal with. As to that of trusteeship, he said that for 25 years France had administered Togo and the Cameroons in conformity with both the spirit and the letter of the Mandate. The two territories had recently appointed by democratic elections representatives to the French Constituent Assembly, and would very soon be electing a local representative Assembly. The French Government was prepared to study the terms by which trusteeship arrangements could be defined in the case of the two territories, on the understanding, however, that this should not entail for their populations any diminution in the rights they already enjoyed by reason of their integration into the French community, and further, that these arrangements would be submitted for approval to the representative organs of those populations.

He then remarked on the extent to which Europe was absent from the Assembly. Apart from Germany there were 13 States of recognized international standing not present, with 150 million inhabitants.

The Syrian delegate said his, and all the Arab Governments, were deeply anxious to see Palestine treated in the same way as Transjordan. A serious question had arisen by the conclusion of the Franco-British agreement, without calling on Syria and the Lebanon to take part in the discussion, by which they seemed to have assumed the role of custodians of security in that zone. For that purpose they seemed desirous of keeping armed forces in the Lebanon until collective security was organized, but far from ensuring security their presence there or in Syria presented a serious danger to it. There was, too, no external danger for the two republics, as both were bounded by peace-loving States. The Syrian delegation had been asked to bring the matter before the United Nations, demanding an early and complete withdrawal of foreign troops, but they were content for the moment to do no more than call the Assembly's attention to the matter, which they hoped would be resolved by an early withdrawal, so making it unnecessary to bring the question up in full.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister said the Lebanese people's realization of their wish to promote the development of their national life and their economic and social well-being and to safeguard their own security while contributing to the organization of world security could not be achieved as long as foreign troops were stationed in their territory.

Persian appeal to the Security Council. (*see Persia.*)

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